

My HealtheVet Kicks-Off

November 11, 2003 marked the kick-off of *My HealtheVet*, VA's new web-based application for veterans. Phase 1 of the national roll out of *My HealtheVet* creates a new, online environment where veterans can explore health topics, research diseases, and conditions, learn about veteran-specific conditions, understand medication and treatment options, assess and improve their wellness, view seasonal health reminders, explore a wellness calendar and more. In later phases, *My HealtheVet* extends veteran access to valuable timesaving services such as online prescription refills, the ability to view next appointment date and time, and the ability to see co-payment balance. Ultimately, when the health record portion of the application is available, a veterans will be able to view and maintain a copy of key portions of his/her secure personal health record from VA's health information system, HealtheVet/Vista.

Network 2 continues to serve as a pilot site for the *My HealtheVet* initiative and continues to play an active role in informing the national product.

For more information, go to the new Website at: **www.myhealthevet.va.gov**



Salute to Veterans

The willingness of America's veterans to sacrifice for our country has earned them our lasting gratitude. On the 50th annual Veterans Day observance, numerous events were held across the Network to celebrate and honor the patriots who fought to protect the democratic ideals that are the foundation of our country.

Throughout our history, loyal citizens from every corner of America have willingly assumed the duty of military life. And time after time, in conflicts across the globe, they have proven that democracy is mightier than tyranny. From World War I and World War II, to the conflicts in Korea, Vietnam, and the Persian Gulf, to the recent battles in the war on terror, our military has built a great tradition of courageous and faithful service. Our veterans have helped bring freedom to countries around the world. Free nations and peoples liberated by American troops are grateful for the long, distinguished line of American veterans who have come to their aid.

Thank you for taking such great care of our nation's heroes and honoring them not just this past veterans day - but every day.

Congratulations

All sites in Network 2 have been fully accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) for another three years. Special thanks to all Network 2 staff for a job well done, not just during the JCAHO inspection but every day.



Goalsharing to be Paid in December

Goalsharing payouts for fiscal year 2003 will appear in the December 5 paychecks.

Goals for fiscal year 2004 are due in January.



WNY Director Named

Michael S. Finegan has been named Director of the VA Western New York Healthcare System. Finegan succeeds **William F. Feeley** who now heads Network 2. Prior to Finegan's appointment as head of the WNY veterans' facility, he served as Director of the Butler, Pennsylvania VA Medical Center since 2000. Before that appointment, Finegan served as Chief Financial and Operations Officer for Network 2.

Finegan has a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the State University of New York Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy, and a Bachelor's Degree from Allegheny College, Meadville, Pennsylvania. He is a member of the American College of Healthcare Executives, the Healthcare Financial Managers Association, and the American Society of Public Administration. He is both a graduate and coach at the Veterans Health Administration Leadership Institute.



Awards and Recognition

- **Walt Dowdle** has been named the Diagnostics and Therapeutics Care Line Manager for the Bath VA Medical Center.
- **Jack Galvin** has been named the Network 2 Chief Information Officer.
- **Colleen Murphy**, RN, VA Western New York Healthcare System submitted a poster presentation on behalf of Network 2 for the New York State Nurses (NYSNA) Annual Convention. The poster, entitled *All Eyes and Ears on Patient Safety* was awarded the "Blue Ribbon for Clinical Innovation."
- **Theodore Podkul**, Health Systems Specialist, VA Western New York Healthcare System has earned recertification from the American College of Health Care Administrators as a Certified Nursing Home Administrator.
- VA Western New York Healthcare System, Public Affairs Specialist **Barbara Sellon** was selected to assist the on-site Public Affairs Team at the 2003 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival, in Oklahoma City, October 6-12. Her duties included media support, hometown news releases, photography, and newsletter writing.
- **Pat Spooner** has been named the Acting Medical VA Care Line (MVAC) Manager for the Canandaigua VA Medical Center. Former MVAC Manager, **Pam Chester** has accepted a new position in the Education Department.

Financial Coaches

In a previous edition of *Infopage*, the financial coaches were incorrectly identified. They should have read as follows:

- **Jan Stewart** - Albany
- **Jill Haynes** - Bath
- **Margie Burzynski** - Buffalo
- **George Corda** - Canandaigua
- **Bob Alsheimer** - Syracuse
- **Lis Kittell** - VISN 2 Care Line Overhead and VISN 2 Consolidated

Speaking Engagements

Have you gone out speaking on behalf of the VA recently? Do you have an upcoming speaking engagement planned?

As part of a Network-wide initiative, Public Affairs is now rolling up all speaking engagements and outreach opportunities to the Network Communications Council.

Please let the Public Affairs Officer at your facility know when you have gone out to make a presentation or speak on behalf of the VA. If you need handouts or give-a-ways for your speaking engagement, your Public Affairs Officer has many different items available for your use.